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General Wade Hampton.

The declination of the Columbia post office by General Wade Hampton is certain to cut a figure in the McLaurin-Tillman contest in South Carolina. The tender of the place, as the story goes, was made indirectly by Mr. McLaurin, and General Hampton's reply was that he could accept nothing from "that source." He then added, "The people of South Carolina should know by this time I cannot be bought." The meaning of this evidently is that in General Hampton's opinion Mr. McLaurin was endeavoring to attach him, Hampton, to his, McLaurin's, cause.

It is not to be denied, of course, that had General Hampton accepted the office tendered, Mr. McLaurin as a candidate for re-election to the Senate would in some measure have benefited. The name of Hampton is one to conjure with in South Carolina. Its chief representative today is altogether worthy of it, and in his own right is a picturesque figure. He is advanced in years and poor, and the salary of the office in question would have contributed to his material comfort. Mr. McLaurin probably took everything into consideration in deciding upon General Hampton, and should be accredited with more than merely selfish ends in the premises. General Hampton, however, chose to regard the tender only as a bribe, and so rejected it.

And yet it is as much as stated that had President McKinley decided, as it is said he was personally inclined to do, to retain General Hampton in the office of railroad commissioner, the latter would have continued to serve. In that event would General Hampton have considered himself bribed? He was a democrat. The President was a republican, and it was known that one of the objects of the new administration would be the strengthening of the President's party in the south. And if General Hampton were now in the office of railroad commissioner, and Mr. McLaurin were pointing to his presence there as evidence that the President is well inclined toward the south, would General Hampton object to such use of his name, on the score that he must not be converted thus into an asset of the republican party? Most certainly not!

Mr. McLaurin has done a wise thing in this matter even as it has turned out. The criticism leveled at southern men who support republican policies is that they ally themselves with the party whose national leaders ignore the representative men of the south, and appoint only the unworthy and incompetent to office. In the past four years the President has been roundly lectured for some of his southern appointments, and assured that a change of policy in this particular would inure both to his own and the country's benefit. He has gone on the tack indicated, and if he accomplishes nothing else he will at least prove the sincerity, or expose the insincerity of some of the men who have been loudest in giving him advice on this subject.

The Capital's Perspectives.

A correspondent whose interesting letter is printed today writes to discuss the subject of vistas and perspectives in the capital's plan and development, taking issue in a measure with what he declares to have been L'Enfant's ideal of uninterrupted views along considerable distances. It is apparent that the writer has in some degree misapprehended the remarks of The Star calling forth his suggestions, which were advanced in the course of a recent editorial. The Star expressed the hope that the park commission now at work would in its report lay down such principles as would in the future prevent inartistic obscurations of the sky line and that the Attorney General would postpone his building operations until Congress could have another chance to correct the mistake of ordering the Department of Justice building to be located so inappropriately as on the chosen site. It is apparent that Washington's chief beauty will lie, if the city is developed toward present ideals, in the artistically interrupted vista, as the correspondent indicates. But the good effect of a handsomely closed perspective will be nullified by the construction of another structure at some later period which will jut itself, however beautiful its own lines, across the sky outline of its older companion. There is no disposition to line up the future public buildings of the capital so as to present the effect of a cliff-like wall or a chasm of masonry. The scheme to locate future buildings of this character on the south side of the avenue contemplates the taking of so much ground that each building may have its approach, affording individual perspectives of rare beauty. The Star's correspondent suggests plans for the utilization of the perspectives already available which are worthy of thoughtful consideration.

Sir Henry Irving resents the suggestion that modern and frivolous forms of entertainment be called in to reinforce the income of the theater he controls. It may be inferred that no pecuniary considerations will ever induce Sir Henry to go into vaudeville and give imitations of himself.

Tom L. Johnson is still busy trying to evolve some plan to keep the tax collector from getting what he hopes to save for the public in its transactions with the street car conductor.

President McKinley finds that "southern hospitality" is far from being a mere empty phrase.

Justice for Mr. Hill.

This from the Boston Herald does injustice to a distinguished democrat:

"Ex-Senator David B. Hill emulates the example of Mr. Bryan in saying that he is not a candidate for the democratic nomination to the presidency in 1904. There is still a string to the declaration in Mr. Hill's case. Mr. Hill sought to displace Mr. Cleveland for the position several years ago, and there is no reason to believe that his ambition in that direction is now ended. But Mr. Hill is a shrewder politician than he was; his defeat has taught him political wisdom. He will guard against being premature again. He is an able man; he proved this when he was in the Senate of the United States. The country had underrated his talents up to that time. Unfortunately, however, in demonstrating his capacity, he was less successful in making his reliability plain. With all his protestation of devotion to the democratic party, he was not a good democrat in this office, having aided to thwart the better purposes of his party there. Had he been a man of high political aims, this might have been overlooked; but he was not. As a candidate for the presidency he has, therefore, to meet the objection of a lack of party fealty in the one direction and sound views and purposes in statesmanship in the other. He will find it difficult to contend against both."

In what particular was Mr. Hill "not a good democrat" while filling the office of United States senator? Wherein did he fail his party? Has the Herald forgotten the fight over the income tax item of the Gorman-Wilson tariff bill? Mr. Hill led that fight. He resisted the proposition on two grounds: (1) He declared that it was unconstitutional, and (2) that it was largely sponsored by men of populistic rather than of democratic views and tendencies. "Yield to them in this thing," he warned his party associates, "and you will presently find yourselves forced to yield to them in other things." The Supreme Court sustained him on the first ground, and the party's experience at Chicago two years later sustained him on the second. The income tax was declared unconstitutional, and the populists when Mr. Bryan was nominated for President captured the democracy bag and baggage.

And yet Mr. Hill was again on hand protesting with all his might against the course laid out. Undiscouraged by his failure to control matters in the Senate, he went to the democratic national convention in 1896 and urged his party friends to resist the rising tide of populism. He told them plainly that if they did not resist they would be swamped at the polls. He took up the platform plank by plank, and showed how little of democracy and how much of populism composed it. Again he failed.

Undiscouraged by this second failure, Mr. Hill went to Kansas City last year and made another attempt to divorce his party from populism. He came within an ace of succeeding, too. If the other leaders of the party who agreed with him had been on hand and helping him he would have succeeded. But Mr. Cleveland was at the seaside, Mr. Gorman was resting at his summer home, Mr. Watterson was at Louisville, entirely out of range, Mr. Carlisle was busy in New York. And so on. Mr. Hill fought almost singlehanded, and again he went to defeat.

Mr. Hill has his weaknesses, and as a presidential nominee he would have to meet them. It is, however, but the simple truth to say that he has at one time and another exerted himself more openly and energetically to prevent the mistakes his party of recent years has made than any other member of it. He has not only held to the old faith, but he has fought for it and suffered for it.

McLeavy Brown.

The cables tell that the Corean government has reconsidered once more in the case of Mr. McLeavy Brown, the Englishman who has for some years been director of customs at Seoul, and has now invited him to vacate his office. When a few weeks ago it was reported that Mr. Brown had been asked to go the British government entered such emphatic protest that the authorities at Seoul quickly reversed their action and expressed their entire willingness to continue Mr. Brown in their employ. This was regarded as a victory for British diplomacy as against the Russian influence, which is seeking dominance in Corea. If now, after thus yielding to England on the point, Corea reverses herself again it is evident that Russia has been secretly at work in the meantime, intriguing to regain the prestige which Brown's retention cost her. The personal fortunes of Mr. Brown are of slight importance in the contest between England and Japan on one side and Russia on the other. He is the immediate issue, but the real stake is the future suzerainty over Corea. Brown stands at Seoul for the checkmating of the Russian advance eastward to the sea. There is a close connection between the shuffling of the Corean government and the situation at Pekin, which will doubtless be fully disclosed later. The immediate point of interest is whether Corea is thus to be permitted to violate its pledges whenever the Russian envoys at her capital manage to secure a terrorizing audience with the higher authorities. The United States took an interest in this affair when it was recently conspicuous. It is to be assumed that it will display equal concern now that Corea's unreliability has been further demonstrated.

The District's Postage Bill.

The popular impression of Washington as a postal center is that it is a handicap on the mail distributing business, on account of the enormous amount of free matter handled here for the government departments. It is therefore a pleasing discovery that is pointed out in the news columns today, that the District of Columbia leads all the states and territories in point of proportionate annual mail expenditures per capita. Each inhabitant of the District spends $2.51 a year in dispatching letters in social and business correspondence, as against $2.40 a year by the inhabitant of the state of New York, the next highest in this particular. The comparison between the national capital and a state is fairly drawn, in view of the fact that a large proportion of the population here is scattered over a rural and suburban area. The statistics afford further proof of the fact, lately developing, that Washington is far from being merely the residential center it has been often called. Business is growing here from year to year, and the industrial movement which has lately been stimulated promises early increase.

The Chinese Indemnity Grows.

The Chinese indemnity has grown in the past day or two, according to the bulletins from Pekin by way of Paris. The statement issued the other day placing it at 1,365,000,000 francs was accepted then as authoritative. Now comes word from the same source correcting the figure to read 1,635,000,000, which raises the indemnity from approximately $273,000,000 to $327,000,000. The latter sum is somewhat larger than the general expectation of late, just as the former figure was lower slightly than what was anticipated. The figures themselves suggest that the mistake was caused by an accidental transposition of two of the numerals in the expression of francs. The exchange of places by the 6 and the 3 in the millions might easily have occurred in the course of hasty telegraphing. At any rate this explanation of the amendment will serve as well as any other. The point of importance is that the indemnity is larger than was announced the other day and that the problem of collecting it is proportionately more difficult.

The jury in the Callahan kidnaping case seems to have gone on the principle that anything is right which compels a man with money to give some of it up. There is the nucleus of a first-class anarchist society in that jury.

It is safe to say that if Russell Sage's panic does materialize, Mr. Sage will have enough ready cash in a tea pot in the cupboard or in some similar safe repository to prevent his having to borrow from the neighbors.

The latest census shows that London has something over four and one-half millions of people. This is a large number, but London has been a great many years accommodating them.

It would be unamiable to hint that Mr. Carnegie's retirement from business represented a sagacious readiness to sell out when the market was at its topmost bulge.

The Wall Street Disease.

A Wall street broker dropped dead yesterday standing at the ticker, owing to the intense nervous pressure caused by the recent phenomenal activity in the stock market. It is further reported that upward of half a hundred operators of the street are now ill, suffering from various ailments directly traceable to this unwonted excitement. It has often been said that Wall street veritably sets the pace that kills and the present condition well illustrates the truth. From hour to hour and even from minute to minute the men engaged in the turmoil of the business of speculation live in alternating hope and fear, the hope of winning a vast fortune, the fear of losing all. The atmosphere becomes surcharged with the possibilities of success and disaster. No man can feel safe with a feverish market leaping upward and then reacting. The evil arises from the system of buying shares on margins. There is proportionately little legitimate purchasing of stocks, in which the cash price squarely passes from buyer to seller. The great gamble depends upon the utilizing to the fullest extent of every penny of capital in hand and often the employment of fictitious capital as well. The loss of a quarter point in price will mean the wiping out of everything at stake, and the staccato voice of the ticker is the call of the fates. It is no wonder that those who are playing this great game, with millions at stake, become nervous wrecks, and drain all their vital forces in a frantic effort to keep up the pace and hold firmly to the front. It is the climax of intense personal application, the height of the "strenuous life." It is unwholesome and demoralizing in many respects, and it is deadly to some participants.

It is asserted that anarchists have King Edward on a list of candidates for a general slaughter of monarchs. If King Edward is to get any comfort at all out of life he will have to get used to this sort of thing.

The American cities contemplating world's fairs might be wise to study the history of the recent Paris enterprise for suggestions of what not to do.

On looking the situation over, Admiral Dewey is probably ready to admit that after-dinner speeches are more enjoyable than political orations.

Aguinaldo is as cheerful as can be expected considering what his self esteem must suffer through reports that the price of his betrayal was a hand full of cigars.

If the Texas oil wells turn out to be as valuable as expected the cowboys may become rich enough to make the sombrero quite as aristocratic as the silk hat.

Possibly the man who has assumed the title of dictator of the Philippines is also anxious to be captured and fed.

SHOOTING STARS.

A Liberal Minded Tribute.

"There is one thing that I admire about germs," said the professor, who has no patience with people who doubt scientific discoveries.

"I didn'a know they had any praiseworthy traits whatever."

"They have at least one. They are industrious and take things as they find them. They settle down to their business of making trouble, and don't waste time in debates concerning any human being theory."

Court News.

The Czar and Kaiser have, they say,
A wealth of woe untold.
But worse than all, the Queen of May
Hath caught a serious cold.

A Word of Explanation.

"I don't see why you object to American capital assuming control in some of your affairs."

"Perhaps it's all right," answered the eminent European personage. "Heretofore, you see, we have been accustomed to selling you titles of nobility. When it comes to a transaction that involves actual value on our side of it, it somehow seems different."

His Explanation.

"Why do monarchs use the first person plural?"

"My dear sir," responded the sultan, "you don't suppose we would dare to make any public utterance without letting it be understood that the harem shared the dignities and responsibilities?"

The Result of His Study.

"I suppose you have made a study of human nature," remarked the friend.

"I attribute my success in life to that fact," answered Senator Sorghum.

"Were you never tempted to give the world the benefit of your observations; to put them into book form as a human comedy or something of that sort?"

"My dear sir, it wouldn't take a book to do it. I have figured on the problem of human nature until I know the answer. I should just say, 'Human nature loves money,' and let it go at that."

Salutations.

Weather's not so lonesome
As it used to be;
There's a gentle greeting
From each shrub and tree.
Sturdy oaks are swaying
Where the breezes blow,
And in hoarse good nature
Muttering "Hello."

And the modest wild flower
Shyly looks to see
If there comes a-courting
Any honey bee.
But she minds her manners
Toward the stranger, too;
Blushes some, and c'urtsies
For a how-d'y-do.

At the Capital.

From the Philadelphia Telegraph.

It is satisfactory to note that the promoters of the project for the establishment of a National Art Gallery have finally settled on the city of Washington as the proper location for such an institution. There should be no question as to what is right and suitable in such a matter, but New York has always claimed to be the center of artistic interests in this country, and the art institutions of that city have been designated accordingly as the "National Academy of Design," the "Society of American Artists," etc. The proposal for the formation of a National Gallery was hardly spoken of in public before the Gothamites interested in such affairs took it up and proceeded to discuss it, on the assumption that as a matter of course the project could not possibly be carried out anywhere but on Manhattan Island. The patent fact that the national capital is the fitting place for a National Gallery was absolutely ignored in this discussion; and the only reply deemed necessary to any and all questions respecting locality was that New York and New York alone could furnish the funds required. To provide the means for putting the project in execution is, admittedly, the first thing to be considered, and, so far, the richest city in the western world has had the best of the argument.

It now seems, however, that the government of the United States may take an active interest in the project, and that possibility disposes effectively of the Gothamite pretensions. A representative of the artists concerned recently held a consultation with members of the cabinet on the subject, and, after due deliberation, was given official assurance that the administration would favor the undertaking. Further, and more specifically, it was officially stated that President McKinley in his next general message to Congress would recommend the adoption of the plan by the government and suggest the expediency of an appropriation corresponding in amount with the work to be done. That settles it! America ought to have a National Art Gallery without further delay, as we are the only people of any consequence in the civilized world unprovided with a national institution standing for the highest culture and the most advanced progress in the arts; but we might do better without it for many a long year than countenance abortive attempts to make the national need contributory to local pride and advantage. The sanction of the administration will determine the location of the National Gallery in Washington, where it of right belongs, and that is the most important and most gratifying step yet taken in this behalf.